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FLOOR DEBATE

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that's essentially the bill, and now I'll kind of get into the meat of why I brought this bill and why I think it's important. I came to this issue from a public health perspective. Looking at the fact that Nebraska's Clean Indoor Air Act was passed almost 20 years ago and was a great step forward at that time, we know so much more about environmental tobacco smoke today and we know about its impact on people. I've chosen to focus on restaurants, because restaurants are a very public place. It's one of the last places where the general public is exposed to smoke. I didn't include bars in the bill because in my view the bars are not as public a place, but that...I wanted to direct this effort toward places where families go. So this is directed toward family restaurants, and it's where the public goes. According to the Restaurant Association web site, almost half of all adults were restaurant patrons on a typical day during 1998. We also know that Americans are eating out more often, according to a study from the Department of Agriculture. We eat out twice as often as we did in the seventies. When I was growing up, we went out to eat on...maybe after church on Sunday and maybe for a birthday, but we weren't out every day like our new society is where we are part of the eating out generation. And families spend time together eating out, and they aren't able to protect themselves from environmental tobacco smoke as long as we allow smoking to be retained in restaurants. On the sheet that I've handed out to you, it's the bright pink one so you can find it on your desks today, I have excerpts from a number of fact sheets dealing with secondhand smoke. And I'm just going to cite one thing from each fact sheet because I believe one of the things we should not lose sight of is this bill comes to you because of a health issue. This is secondhand smoke, environmental tobacco smoke, referred to in both ways on these documents, but it does impact nonsmokers. From the fact sheet, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service Center for Disease Control and Prevention, workers exposed to secondhand smoke on the job are 34 percent more likely to get lung cancer. Nonsmokers exposed to cigarette smoke have in the body fluids significant amounts of nicotine, carbon monoxide and other evidence of secondhand smoke. Excerpts from the American Lung Association facts sheet: Involuntary smoking has many nonfatal but important effects. Breathing secondhand smoke makes eyes